

REMARKS

Claims 9, 21 and 22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-8 and 10-20 are cancelled, claims 9 and 21 are amended and claim 22 is added. Support for the amendments can be found in Applicants' paragraphs [0033], [0038], [0041]-[0046] and [0050], for example.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Rodriguez Barros et al. (Rodriguez Barros), U.S. Patent No. 6,926,432. The rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-20 has been rendered moot. The rejection of claims 9 and 21 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 calls for a door mirror where the first coupler supporting piece and the second coupler supporting piece are integrated together by filling the resin material in a portion where the first coupler supporting piece abuts against the second coupler supporting piece in order to integrate the lens portion with the outer base. Rodriguez Barros fails to disclose integrated first and second coupler supporting pieces as defined by claim 9.

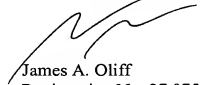
Applicants note that Rodriguez Barros fails to disclose a coupler that is capable of being connected to an external coupler. Rodriguez Barros instead appears to disclose a cable 17 that extends through a folding mechanism 15 and is attached to a direct connector 211 via clips 550 (Figs. 5, 11 and 131, and col. 20, lines 3-5, for example). As a result, Rodriguez Barros fails to disclose a coupler accommodated into a first coupler supporting piece or a first coupler supporting piece that abuts against a second coupler supporting piece, as recited in claim 9. Furthermore, Rodriguez Barros fails to disclose a first coupler supporting piece and a second coupler supporting piece that are integrated together by filling a resin material, as recited in claim 9, or the additional features recited in claim 22.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 25, 2007

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